

*Town of Goshen, Connecticut  
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# Goshen Open Space Plan

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2001



ROUTE 4 LOOKING WEST FROM SCHOOL HILL RD. INTERSECTION  
LATE 1800's

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**GOSHEN OPEN SPACE PLAN**  
**REVISED 2001 BY**  
**THE GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Introduction**

The Goshen Plan of Development written in 1973 defined Goshen as a rural and residential community as indicated in the following statement from that document: "It is this rural character which that the residents wish to insure. The consensus is that Goshen should remain a residential community and that it should preserve its present quite rural atmosphere." This overall objective was written into the Open Space Plan of 1984 and is still applicable today.

The following pages enumerate the present inventory of Goshen's natural resources. This data has been updated from the original plan of 1984. It is presented as an informational aid to future planning.

**Purpose**

Our town continues to have a heritage of open space, clean water and clean air. We have a growing residential base, thriving small businesses and decreasing agricultural activity from 17 years ago. Recreational opportunities are readily available through use of ponds, streams, open lands and forests. Action proposals contained in the 1984 Open Space Plan were implemented in the Goshen Plan of Development, thus providing the framework for the maintenance of a quite rural atmosphere. The Conservation Commission has the responsibility of analyzing the development and use of open space and making recommendations to the town through the Planning & Zoning Commission. This document will portray where we are at the present time and contain action proposals to protect and enhance the natural resources of our town.

A majority of the recommendations of the 1984 Open Space Plan have been enacted through local ordinances and land use regulations bringing use to where we are today. This document will:

Update by map and definition those areas of Goshen designated as Open Space and are of special recreational, historical, or natural resource, and

Proposed specific actions for implementation by various town bodies and residences to protect, enhance and conserve these areas as resources to the town.

### Definition of Open Space

Open space land is defined in Section 12-107c of the General Statutes as "any area of land, including forest land, land designated as wetland under Section 22a-30 and not excluding farmland, the preservation or restriction of the use of which would

- 1) maintain and enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources
- 2) protect natural streams or water supply
- 3) promote the conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches, or tidal marshes
- 4) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations, sanctuaries or other open spaces
- 5) enhance public recreation opportunities
- 6) preserve historic sites
- 7) promote orderly urban and suburban development

The Town of Goshen Planning & Zoning Commission's amendment of 1997 further defines open space parameters as follows:

**Whereas**, the Town of Goshen Planning & Zoning Commission does hereby find and recommend that the open and undeveloped areas of the Town as defined below qualify for designation as "open space land" in the Goshen Open Space Plan and the Goshen Plan of Conservation and Development pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes, Section 12-107e.

**Now therefore be it resolved by the Goshen Planning and Zoning Commission** to amend the Goshen Open Space Plan and the Goshen Plan of Conservation and Development to designate the following areas in the Town of Goshen as "open space land" pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes, Section 12-107e:

"That portion of any lot or parcel of land in the Town of Goshen which is greater than the Goshen Zoning Regulation requirement for minimum lot size for the Zoning District in which the lot is located and is undeveloped land\*\*

Two or more lots sharing a common boundary may be considered as a single lot for the purpose of qualification as "open space" provided:

1. Not more than one of the lots is developed, and
2. The lots are under identical common ownership.

\*\*For the purpose of this section the term "undeveloped land" shall mean land without building(s) or any other man-made structure(s) (excluding dams, cemeteries) or active mineral or earth extraction activities.

The recommendations of the 1984 Open Space Plan have been enacted through local ordinances and land use regulations. Pivotal was incorporation of preferential tax assessment for qualified open space in accord with Public Act 490. The data and map presented in the following pages provides insight as to the present open space.

**Current Open Space Areas as of 2001**

	Town Records	State Records
<b><u>State Administered Lands</u></b>	<b><u>Acres</u></b>	<b><u>Acres</u></b>
Goshen Wildlife Management area (Blue Cross).....	848.17	848.00
Mohawk State Forest (DEP).....		1354.7285
Ivy Mountain State Park (DEP).....	.51.25	50.00
Wadhams Grove (DOT).....	.1.05	
Hall Meadow.....	.242.3	
Dog Pond Boat Launch (DEP).....	.1.7	1.4
Tyler Lake Boat Launch (DEP).....	.0.17	0.25
West Side Pond Boat Launch (DEP).....	.0.12	0.20
Long Swamp Easement.....	15.00	
Abraham Estate.....	118.55	118.547
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2633.04</b>
<b><u>Water Company Lands</u></b>		
Waterbury Water Company.....	.441	
Torrington Water Company.....	3,936	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4377</b>
<b><u>Educational Institutions</u></b>		
Boy Scouts of America.....	186.2	
Action Wildlife (also shown under Vail Farm).....	98.28	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>282.48</b>
<b><u>Commercial</u></b>		
Torrington Country Club.....		148.79
<b><u>Private</u></b>		
Woodridge Lake.....	57	
Goshen Agricultural Society (Fairgrounds).....	121.36	
Croft Property Audubon Society.....	700	
Torrington Fish and Game Club.....		
Goshen Land Trust.....	130.335	
Goshen Land trust Easements.....	27.9	
Woodridge Lake Sewer District.....	114.67	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1123.37</b>
<b><u>Municipal (Town Owned Land)</u></b>		
East Street South Aquifer.....	59.96	
Camp Cochepianee.....	57.73	
Land around town office and library.....	3.5	
Center School.....	.6.76	
Cemeteries (except on Church and Water Co. property).....	12.68	
<b><u>Churches</u></b> .....	56.07	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>196.7</b>

**Agriculture Land Development Rights Purchased by State**

Gray Farm.....	96
Cunningham Farm.....	210
Breakell Farm.....	108
Thorn Farm.....	97
Craig Farm.....	84
Vaill Farm (also shown under Action Wildlife).....	98
Schuster Farm.....	51
Perkins Farm.....	53

TOTAL 797

**Bodies of Water**

Potash Pond.....	4.82
Woodridge Lake.....	385
Tyler Lake.....	184
Dog Pond.....	67.4
North Pond.....	131
Hart Reservoir.....	85
Mohawk Pond.....	4.94
West Side Pond.....	39
Whist Pond.....	43.1
Hoover Pond.....	10.9

TOTAL 955.16

490 Forest Land ( as of 2001) 7293

490 Open Space ( as of 2001) 1193

Farm Land (exclusive of state owned devel. rights) 3053

GRAND TOTAL 22485.8 acres

TOTAL ACRAGE IN GOSHEN 29184 acres, 45.6 square miles

PERCENTAGE OF OPEN SPACE 77 %

The enclosed open space map provides a visual representation of the above data.

**Please note:** The acreage that can be considered as permanently locked into open space status consists of 5463 acres or 18.7% of the total area of Goshen. The remaining 58% is subject to change in open space status from the present time.

### Goshen's Natural Resources

The purpose of this Open Space Plan is to present the people of Goshen a guide for decision making in the future making in the future development of our town in order to preserve Goshen's quiet and rural atmosphere. The town covers 45.6 square miles in the center of Litchfield county and has a current population of approximately 2600 in 2001. This is over a 50% increase in 17 years.

The following sections detail the resources that are important to the town.

### Water Resources

The water resources of Goshen include the surface waters of lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands and ground waters including their recharge areas. We have four major watersheds: the Hollenbeck, Shepaug, Bantam and Naugatuck. Bedrock aquifers underlie the entire town and stratified drift aquifers occur in nine localized areas. Most domestic water supplies in Goshen are derived from bedrock aquifers, which in some cases is limited. More water is potentially available from stratified drift aquifers. However, testing will be required to determine quantity and quality. Goshen owns land with a stratified drift aquifer adjacent to Bridgeport Hydraulic ground wells but has no municipal water system. Goshen is headwaters to two public water supply systems. The Shepaug/Marshepaug watersheds contain surface water which serve Waterbury. The west branch of the Naugatuck River serves the Torrington area.

Recreational activities such as swimming, boating, skating and fishing are abundant and accessible on Goshen waters. The state maintains public boat launches on Tyler Lake, West Side Pond, Dog Pond and Mohawk Pond. Recreational activity is limited to hiking by permit only on Torrington Water Company property with little or no activity permitted on water bodies contained therein.

Wetlands are critical to water quality. They act as nutrient and pollutant filters by cycling the nutrients and trapping the pollutants and sediments. Wetlands also prevent storm water damage by storing and retaining runoff. As an example, a ten acre marsh will accommodate 3 million gallons of water for a one foot rise in water level. Wetlands support abundant and diverse wildlife.

All wetland components in each watershed are important. They contribute greatly to the quality of Goshen's open space and to the quality of life in this area and surrounding towns. In cases of water supply, maintaining excellent water quality is essential to protect public health and safety and avoidance of more costly treatment or liability for polluted water. It is everyone's responsibility to help protect and maintain the quality of Goshen's water resources. As water companies divest themselves of lands that offer marginal or minimal water source protection, there will be potential for addition open space but only if it is acted upon in a timely and decisive manner.

### Description of Water Resources

#### Bantam River Watershed

The Bantam River watershed in Goshen encompasses 8750 acres starting from Ivy Mountain in the northeast and West Side road/Rt. 63 area in the center of town and ending at the Torrington and Litchfield town lines in the southeast corner of town. It consists of two large branches, Ivy Mountain brook and the West branch of the Bantam River. The sub-watershed of Ivy Mountain brook, Fox brook and the Bantam River have a water quality classified as Class A by the state DEP. The 60 acre swamp at the confluence of Ivy Mountain and Fox brooks is owned and maintained as a nature preserve by the Goshen Land Trust. Class A waters are considered suitable for drinking water supply and bathing.

The West branch of the Bantam River sub-watershed includes Dog Pond, Long Swamp, Peat Swamp and the west branch itself. This is also rated Class A but is not used for a drinking water supply. It is used for recreation purposes on Dog Pond. An easement on the south end of long swamp is held by the state for hunting and trapping purposes.

#### Shepaug River Watershed

The Shepaug River watershed covers 9400 acres. It is composed of the sub-watershed rivers consisting of the Marshapaug River and the East branch of the Shepaug. Both are used for City of Waterbury public water supply.

The Marshapaug River system consists of West Side Pond, Tyler Lake, Woodridge Lake and Sucker Brook. Both Tyler Lake and Woodridge Lake have high population densities and are intensively used for recreation. Some of the historical mill areas along the river in West Goshen have been preserved by the Goshen Land Trust through purchase and easement.

The East branch of the Shepaug River sub-watershed contains 3000 acres. It consists of Mohawk Pond, Hart Pond and Bear Swamp. This river branch runs through heavily forested lands from its headwaters in Mohawk State forest. This area is valued for its recreational use and wildlife habitat.

#### Naugatuck River Watershed (west branch)

The West branch Naugatuck River Watershed area consists of five sub-watershed branches. These are Gunstock Brook, Hall Meadow Brook, Jakes Brook, Whist Pond and Nickel Brook. The total area drained by this system is 7150 acres.

The Hall Meadow branch flows through the Northeast corner of town to Torrington as a main feeder to the Naugatuck. This watershed is comprised of 2100 rural acres of mostly wooded steeply sloped terrain with the exception of its flood plain. The DEP owns 246 acres in Goshen in the flood plain as part of the flood control system downstream and Minetto State Park.

A potential high yield stratified drift aquifer lies within the flood plain. It has been considered as a possible source of supplying public water. The rural character of this drainage area provides a diversity of wildlife.



The other four sub-watersheds are integral to the Torrington Water Company public water supply system. They encompass 3573 acres or 50% of the total watershed. The terrain in this drainage area has steep slopes and severe soil limitations. The major value of this area remains to be the maintenance of water quality and light recreational hiking.

#### The Hollenbeck River Watershed

This drainage system is still largely rural. It is composed of Bradford Brook, Ocain Brook and several wetland areas. The system drains 2600 acres of mostly heavily wooded land with some scattered agricultural land. Wildcat swamp, which straddles the Goshen Norfolk line, has 80 acres in town and should be considered for future uses as flood control, recreation and water supply.

#### Soils

Goshen's soils overlie glacial till varying from a few inches over bedrock to thick deposits of sand and gravel. Natural changes in the soil-plant ecosystem are slow and seldom seen naturally. Use of the land by people affects natural soil conditions. This may in turn affect water quality in lakes and streams. Houses, roads, cropland and sanitary facilities affect the condition of the soil by compaction, erosion and overtaxing the soil's capability to absorb or modify wastes properly. Management procedures are available to minimize adverse impacts on soils.

There are about 100 soil types found in Goshen. Locations of soil types have been mapped by the United States Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service and can be found in the Soil Survey of Litchfield County, 1970, by USDA. Included in this publication, is information on the limitations of soil types for various land use along with detailed descriptions of the soils. The physical, chemical and morphological properties of soil type determine its capabilities and capacities for use as home sites, septic fields, croplands, roads and other uses. State statutes allow this information to be used as a basis for zoning, planning and enforcement of Connecticut Inland Wetland Act.

#### Forestland

Goshen is approximately seventy-three percent forested. The forest zones found in town are the Northern Hardwoods Zone and the Transition Hardwoods Zone. Characteristic species in the Northern Hardwood Zone are sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, white pine, hemlock, white ash and black cherry. The Transition Hardwood Zone's characteristic species are red oak, black oak, white oak, white ash, black birch, sugar maple, pignut hickory and basswood. Pioneer species found throughout town in old agricultural areas are white pine, eastern red cedar, gray birch and quaking aspen.

This resource is useful for recreation, wildlife habitat and watershed protection, fuel wood and lumber. Most of the forestland in Goshen is held as state forest, parks, and by water companies. Effective coordination of forest management is made difficult by the great number of small parcels and by the limited technical assistance available from government agencies.

Forest land of twenty-five acres or more is eligible for reduced tax assessment under Connecticut Public Act 490. This program encourages land to be kept in forest. No management plan is required in order to receive this assessment, but the public should be encouraged to learn more about caring for woodland. Poor logging techniques may cause serious erosion and sedimentation problems and adversely affect water quality and

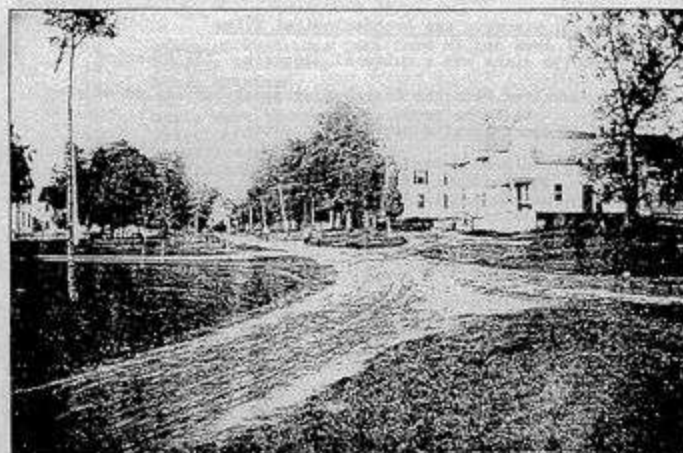
future productivity of the forest resource of Goshen. Private consulting foresters and State Foresters are available to assist the public with developing management plans.

#### **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

There are many fragile resource areas in Goshen that contain one or more of the resources previously mentioned. These areas are the ridge tops, shallow depth to bedrock areas (exposed or shallow body), stream belts, and inland wetlands.

The ridge top areas are the summits and immediate side slopes of the watershed boundaries in town. These areas are extremely difficult to develop and are aesthetically pleasing in their natural state. The shallow depth to bedrock areas of Goshen are those regions mapped on the soil survey as Hollis Soils and rock land. On-site septic systems are difficult to establish on these areas, and once stripped of vegetation, these areas quickly lose what soil they have to erosion. Reforestation is slow.

Stream belts are natural corridors along the water courses in town. The boundaries of stream belts are delineated by soil types based upon a system developed by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA. Land use is regulated by soil's potentials in order to protect water quality. Inland Wetlands are the poorly to very poor drained soils and floodplain soils found in Goshen. These areas supply wildlife habitat and flood water storage. They also act as filtration areas for surface water. These areas are not suitable for development.



Goshen Center 1897 Goshen Street looking south John N. Breckin

#### Scenic, Historic and Archaeological Sites

- The West Goshen Creamery (1813)
- The Academy (1824)
- Old Town Hall (1895)
- Slab Alley (Mill St.)
- All Cemeteries
- Old St. Thomas Church (1876)
- Congregational Church
- Clay beds (near Dog Pond)
- Dog Pond Sluiceway
- North Goshen Methodist/Episcopal Church
- Old General Store (West Goshen)
- School House Newcomb Rd.
- School House Hinsdale Rd.
- School House Beach Street
- School House Route 4
- Liberty Pole on East Street (1776)
- Methodist Church (1836)
- Center North Goshen Village
- Goshen Center
- Action Wildlife

#### Other Points of Interest

- Tipping Rock
- Peat Swamp
- Long Swamp Vista
- Swamp on Dog Pond
- Swamp on Tyler Lake

- Lucas Hill Vista
- Long Swamp
- Ivy Mountain
- North Goshen
- Route 4 East Street North Vista
- Glacial Erratic on Gray Farm
- Vista of Woodridge Lake from Milton Road (concealed by overgrowth)
- Roberts Hill Vista
- Brass Mountain
- Hart Pond and Wetlands
- Vista west of Route 63, south of rotary (concealed by brush)
- Fairground
- Bartholomew Hill Rd.
- Cunningham Area Vista

There are numerous archaeological sites in Goshen in the lake regions of town and along the larger streams and rivers. These sites are not listed for fear of vandalism and exploitation. These archaeological sites date back to colonial and pre-colonial periods in the town's history.

#### Agricultural Resources

The agricultural resource of Goshen are identified by two sets of criteria. The first criteria is based on land use. Land being used for any of the following would be considered as part of the resource:

- Orchards
- Nurseries
- Vegetable Farms
- Vineyards
- Pastures
- Farm Buildings and Facilities
- Hay Fields
- Grain Crops
- Pens, Corrals and Paddocks
- Poultry Farms
- Fish Farms

The second criteria is determined by soil types. The Soil Conservation Service, USDA, has identified certain soil types that are well suited for the production of food and fiber. The soils are designated as the prime and important farmland soils of the USDA classification units I, II and III. There are areas of these soils in Goshen that have not been lost to uses that are incompatible to use for farming. These areas have been included as part of the resource.

Land areas that fit either of the two criteria above is considered as part of the town's agricultural base.

Agricultural resources are important for the production of food and fiber. Agricultural lands are also extremely important for wildlife habitat, aesthetics and contribution to the character of rural communities. Connecticut depends heavily on importation of food from other states and countries. Locally produced food mainly consists of in season fruits and vegetables.

#### Description of Farmland Resources

Goshen contains approximately 5300 acres of land in its potential agricultural base. This land has continued to shrink due to developmental pressures. It is the easiest land to develop. A recent TV report in October 2001, indicated that at the present rate of conversion to other uses, Connecticut will have lost all significant agricultural land by 2002. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the of today's citizens to take the necessary steps to preserve this resource for the future.

The agricultural resources of Goshen have been grouped into sixteen tracts. These are identifiable on the agricultural land map in the appendix by letters A through Q. These tracts feature significant contiguous blocks of prime agricultural land of about 200 prime acres. This size block provides a viable base for future commercial farm operations. Vegetable, nursery, orchard, or small scale farm operations are also viable in these areas.

#### Description of Farmland Tracts

##### Tract F:

This tract is located between West St. and route 63 with active farmlands covering half of Classes I, II and III categories available in the area. There are large contiguous areas of these soil types grouped close to and within the existing active farmland. The State owns the development rights to approximately 85 acres of this land. Some land has been subdivided into housing lots along West St. There are areas within this tract that are still worthy of consideration for preservation as a future agricultural resource.

##### Tract D:

This area is located along Rt. 63 adjacent to the Litchfield town line. Roughly half of the Class I, II & III soils within this area are presently used for agricultural purposes. The other half of the Class I, II, & III soils in this area are no longer actively farmed or not yet used. This area will be under pressure in the near future for uses other than agricultural.

##### Tract E:

This area is located along RT. 63, north of Tract D & south of Rt. 4, contains two broad bands of Class I, II & III soils running north to south. Some of this area has been preserved via State ownership of the development rights. Some of the best soils lie within Goshen center and have been lost to incompatible uses. A large section is utilized by the Goshen Agricultural Society for the fairgrounds and parking.

##### Tract K:

This area is the largest agricultural tract in Goshen and is located in the eastern side of town along East St. North & East St. South. It contains large areas of the 1<sup>st</sup> three soil classes throughout. The soil areas are not contiguous but in close proximity to each other. The state owns the development rights to 100 acres in this area. There is one active dairy farm and a wildlife farm in this area. A large portion of the property is under the umbrella of the Torrington Water Co. watershed lands.

##### Tract I:

Northwest of Tyler Lake and adjacent to the Cornwall town line, the Class I, II & III soils in this tract are scattered. They are presently used for agriculture with two areas of about 300 acres total under protection via state owned development rights. There is an equal amount of soils other than Class I, II, & III being used for agriculture in this area.

**Tract J:**

This site, located on Lucas Hill, covers an area of 300 acres. It consists of a long narrow continuous strip of Class I, II & III soils that is readily accessible and has been used for agriculture. An adjacent area, equal in size consisting of other soil classes, has also been used in farming.

**Tract N:**

Located in the Hall Meadow section of town, this area contains another narrow strip of Class I, II, & III soils that is 1000 ft wide by 10,000 ft long. One quarter of this land has been previously used for agriculture with the remainder within the confines of Mineto State Park.

**Tract A:**

Located in the southwest corner of town, three bands of Class I, II & III soils are present which cover an area of about 140 acres. One half of these soils have been used for farming along with adjacent soil classes consisting of about 60 acres. This section of town is somewhat isolated from the rest of Goshen.

**Tract C:**

This area, west of Beach St. & south of Woodridge Lake, has 207 acres protected by State ownership of development rights. This encompasses the majority of the agricultural land in this area.

**Tract L:**

The area west of East St. North and south of North Pond is large, 2 1/3 miles long & 1/4 mile wide. It consists of scattered pockets of the top three soil classes, 50 acres of which were used for farming. 400 to 450 acres of other soil types were previously used for farming. The State now owns a large part of this area. The Torrington Water Co. water shed land occupies 1/4 of this tract. A proposed golf course will occupy most of the remainder.

**Tract P:**

This site, located in the northwest corner of town along RT 63, has scattered pockets of Class I, II & III soils which have been used for farming. Other pockets of soil types have also been used in this area. Accessibility to these lands is limited.

**Tract Q:**

Located on East St. North adjacent to the Norfolk town line, this area contains 30 to 40 acres of the top three soil classes. Some of this land is under a conservation easement from Nature Conservancy that will allow continued use for farming.

**Tract B:**

West of Woodridge Lake along Milton Rd., this area contains about 200 acres of the top three soil classes with about 30% used for agriculture. There are approximately 120 to 150 acres of other soil types that have been used for agriculture in this area. Acreage has been & will continue to be lost in this area due to residential development pressure.

**Tract G:**

Straddling School Hill Rd., this area has succumbed to development pressure. There are two contiguous tracts that are in open space. The remaining available agricultural land is little or under utilized.

**Tract H:**

Land in this area has been subdivided into residential units. What little agricultural land that is remaining is fragmented and not easily accessible. This area is a prime example of land use being driven by federal and state tax codes.

**Tracts M & O:**

These areas have scattered pockets of Class I, II & III soils and are small in scale. They have not been farmed in decades and are located within the Torrington Water Co. lands.

## **Action Proposals**

The Conservation Commission has reviewed the resources in Goshen and is proud of the many accomplishments since the last report. Looking forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we feel that diligence in establishing, maintaining and preserving open space, clean water and natural resources for generations to come is still a major priority. The following are recommendations for the town to accomplish this and move forward.

**1. Funding of the Agricultural Land Preservation Fund**

The ordinance for the establishment of an Agricultural Land Preservation Fund was passed in 1986. Funding for the ordinance has been nonexistent. A modest sum of \$20,000 per year over the last 15 years would, today, provide enough working capital to do something pro-active by the Town or the Town in conjunction with the State in the event of agricultural land being placed under development pressure. We recommend that serious consideration should be given to funding for the preservation fund to be included in future budgets.

2. We recognize that all open space has value. However, contiguous blocks of open space and agricultural land are most valuable. Contiguous blocks of open space allows for the synergies to take place which support a wider diversity of plant and animal life. Geographically close blocks of agricultural land provides the ease and economies required for successful farming. Therefore, we recommend, that where large tracts of open space or agricultural land presently exist, strong consideration be given to extending these types of land areas that are adjacent or abutting to existing areas when the opportunity presents itself.

**3. Open Space Use Policy:**

The town of Goshen should establish and adopt a policy for the use of its open spaces. Priority should be given to recreational uses that are safe and preserve the natural environment. This means that special interest groups would take a back seat to wider populations who want to hike, explore and learn about the natural environment. We should restrict motorized vehicles to the places where erosion and noise pollution would be minimal. Hunting would be by permit only, during set times and in specific areas to protect people and property from harm. Cooperation with State commissions should be encouraged to bring those open spaces into similar use provisions and objectives. (or forbid hunting on Goshen land and restrict it on State land if the State insists)

#### 4. Trail Network:

Hiking trails, access parking and roadways should be established and maintained, as town resources are available. Future cooperative efforts should be made with other organizations (State and Private) to connect and expand open space in Goshen and create a network of trails between open spaces. The Conservation Commission would continue to encourage and expand the safe use of open space within the town through map making, creation of signage, construction of trails and bridges and regular maintenance programs. Ongoing discussions between open space holders will continue to encourage residents and visitors to use the spaces in creative and safe ways.

#### 5. Protect Wetlands:

The Conservation Commission supports and encourages zoning and Health Department efforts to restrict and control building and land uses on and near wetlands in Goshen. Responsible use of pesticides and fertilizers should be encouraged through education and wide spread use limited whenever possible. This is especially true near our lakes and streams. Education on the effects of fertilizer on lake eutrophication and pesticides on plant and animal life should be made available to all. Where large scale applications are involved, it is recommended that there be a requirement for permits for uses approved by the appropriate agency or governing body. Efforts to limit, prevent and stop runoff into protected wetlands should be given high priority. The Conservation Commission should further identify and report to the town, areas and practices that potentially could damage wetlands and protected watersheds.

#### 6. Septic Systems:

Since sewer avoidance has been the main thrust for future development efforts, the education of the proper building, repair and maintenance of septic systems within the town should be a high priority. Making literature and other resources available to homeowners could help keep septic systems healthy. The town Clerk might start of program of reminders to homeowners to pump systems periodically similar to dog licensing.

#### 7. Dog Pond Dam:

The only lake in Goshen without an effective dam is Dog Pond. The current pile of rocks does not give any control to water outflow of the lake. Summer low water levels are creating a hazard for swimmers at the town beach, limiting boat access on the State ramp and encouraging weed growth in the lake. An effective dam would give this body of water a stable water level that would enhance recreational uses of the lake and make other lake management options available to Goshen. The survival and safe operation of the town summer camp and beachfront depends on maintaining a safe water level especially in dry summer months. Property owners on Dog Pond support the building of a dam and look to the town to take the leadership of this effort. Finding a way to preserve this valuable water resource has to be a high priority for Goshen.



#### **Appendix 1 Soil Classifications**

For the reader who is unfamiliar with soil classifications, the following is a brief definition of each type:

- Class I: These soils have few limitations that restrict their use.
- Class II: These are soils have some limitations that reduce the choice of plants or require moderate conservation practices.
- Class III: These soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants, require special conservation practices, or both.
- Class IV: Soils that have very severe limitations that restrict the choice of plants, require very careful management, or both.
- Class V: Soils that are subject to little or no erosion but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that limit their use largely to pasture, range, woodland, wildlife food & cover.
- Class VI: Soils that have severe limitations that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation. Use is largely limited to pasture, range, woodland, or wildlife food & cover.
- Class VII: Soils that have severe limitations that make them completely unsuitable for cultivation. Use is limited to grazing, woodland, or wildlife.
- Class VIII: Soils and landforms that have limitations that preclude their use for commercial cultivation and restrict their use to recreation, wildlife, water supply, or esthetic purposes.

As can be seen from the above definitions, it is important to maintain the availability of class I, II & III soils for the present and future production of food and fiber.



